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THE EXTENSION HORTICULTURIST

September 1, 1922.



* We have no apology to offer for the *
* brevity of the August number of the Exten- *
* sion Horticulturist - it was simply the best *
* we could do with the material you fellows *
* sent in. This month we have fared better. *
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Office of Horticultural and Pomological Investigations
and States Relations Service Cooperating,
U. S. Department of Agriculture,
Washington, D. C.



Field Trip of Prof. Close - July 1 to August 20.

The states covered in this trip were Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho. The meeting of the Great Plains Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science, was attended in Iowa. It was pleasing to note the fine cooperation between the state specialists and county agents and the confidence the fruit growers have in these men. They all agree that the auto tour is the most convincing feature of extension work.

Wisconsin.

Owing to illness, Mr. Gifford had to give up the work for a few months and Mr. G. W. Davies carried on the work from spring until August 1. Pruning and spraying demonstrations were held, but the most effort was put on spray rings. In Rock County 11 rings and in Grant County 14 rings, each averaging 8 members were organized. These all have power outfits. Other rings were started and there are now 75 spray rings in the State. Auto tours will be run off this fall and exhibits will be made at the fairs.

The Smith-Hughes men throughout the state, about 40 in number, were given a two weeks agricultural and horticultural course at the University in Madison during July. Mr. Davies gave the lectures in fruit work.

In the landscape work, Prof. Aust has devoted most of his efforts to tree reconstruction in Madison and other cities. This was necessary because of a fearfully destructive sleet storm last winter that broke down thousands of street and lawn trees.

Nine school house ornamental plantings were started this spring and considerable work was done in assisting town authorities in establishing auto-tourist camps. This is a new line of work and well worth the attention of landscape specialists.

A number of demonstration ornamental plantings around farm homes were visited, they are all doing well and are attracting much attention.

Minnesota.

Prof. Mackintosh devotes only part time to demonstration work and has been stressing pruning, spraying, organizing spray rings, and the planting of farm orchards. Quite a number of orchards and small fruit plantings were visited and they were mostly in good condition. Exhibits will be made at fairs.

North Dakota.

Horticultural demonstration work has been temporarily discontinued except as assistance can be rendered by correspondence. Much valuable data have been secured from the experimental plots for use in demonstration work when it is resumed again.



Washington.

In company with Fruit Specialist, M. D. Armstrong, five days were spent in the fruit sections around Puyallup, Yakima, Spokane and Wenatchee, and one day with Specialist, E. G. Wood in potato demonstrations near Auburn. A great deal of fruit work is in progress. The small fruit work covers pruning, training, and fertilizing. Here, as in Oregon, raspberry shoots grow 9 to 10 feet tall and need special twisting around the wires of the trellis to save a maximum of fruiting wood. The principle lines of tree fruit work are pruning, thinning, fertilizing, soil management, and cover crops, all of which are giving good results. In Spokane Valley more than 500 of the 1200 orchards have been pruned as a result of pruning demonstrations, and a carload of vetch seed for cover crops was used following the cover crop demonstrations. Such cover crops as vetch, alfalfa and red clover have rejuvenated the orchards wonderfully. Two carloads of nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia were used in the same valley as a result of fertilizer demonstrations and the response of the trees was most satisfactory. Some apple bridge grafting was done. Apple packing schools will be held this fall and demonstration exhibits will be made at the fairs. Cranberries are receiving attention in culture, spraying, and storage of fruit. Auto tours are held when results warrant and are proving to be the very best means of extending the various lines of work.

The potato work includes seed selection and treatment, rogueing of plants, seed plots, grading, and grading equipment. Considerable time is given to potato work.

The Pacific Coast Organization of Horticulturists, Entomologists, and Pathologists was in session in Yakima when Messrs. Armstrong and Close reached there. Besides the state officials, this organization includes the county agents, county fruit inspectors, and county pathologists and entomologists. The organization is a live one attacking all problems having to do with fruit growing in the far western states.

Oregon.

Six days were spent with Fruit Specialist, C. L. Long, visiting the fruit sections from Portland to Medford, and the Milton-Freewater section in northeastern Oregon. The small fruit work is mostly soil improvement by use of straw, manure, fertilizers, and vetch cover crops, and the yield has been very much increased thereby.

The work with tree fruits includes pruning, thinning, soil management, cover crops and fertilizers, and all are giving excellent results. Mr. Long has stressed the high renewal system of fruit tree pruning so hard that 75% or more of the fruit growers of each important fruit section are convinced that is the best system and have adopted it. Many orchards so pruned were examined and the method is sound and worthy of being followed throughout the country on all tree fruits except peaches. A bulletin discussing it is now being written.

The orchard cover crop and fertilizer work here, as in Washington, has been of untold value. The response of apple trees to nitrogen, and of apples

and years particularly to an alfalfa cover crop is remarkable in both states. In one county in one year there was an increase of 1000% in use of orchard cover crops as a result of demonstrations.

A new idea tried out with success last spring was a spray equipment school at which the operating, repair, care, etc., of spray equipment was taught.

When a piece of work has advanced far enough to teach a lesson an auto tour is carried out to drive the lesson home - it always succeeds.

Idaho.

Prof. Bennett's extension activities have to do principally with the various phases of potato production, the main lines being seed treatment, culture, roguing, seed certification, grading, and storage-house construction. There is a wonderful response from growers since the potato crop is one of the important ones of the state. Extension headquarters are in Boise, but as Prof. Bennett was doing potato work in northern Idaho two days distant by rail from Boise, the time was spent with state fruit and potato inspectors and fruit growers in the fruit sections between Boise and Fayette. The orchards are mostly in good condition, well pruned and cover cropped with alfalfa.

Meeting of Great Plains Section of the American Society for Horticultural Science - August 15 to 18.

The meetings and field trips were held in conjunction with the Iowa State Horticultural Society and started with an auto tour from Des Moines to Winterset (35 miles southwest of Des Moines), visiting first the Enright orchard and then the original Delicious apple tree on the old Jesse Hiatt farm a few miles from Winterset. The old tree is not very robust, and has been weakened by severe cutting for scions in the past. The trunk was badly decayed but has been recently repaired by "tree surgeons" so may live for some years. At Winterset, in the public park, a huge granite monument was dedicated with appropriate ceremony to the old Delicious tree.

A half-day program was held at the State College at Ames and the fruit experimental and breeding plots were visited, some very interesting and promising seedlings were seen and tested.

Two days were spent in an auto tour visiting the wonderful evergreen nursery of Ferris at Hampton and of Sherman at Charles City, the Siemer Gladiolas nursery at Nora Springs, the Gardner Nursery at Osage (interesting items here are everbearing strawberries, seedling plums and 12 acres of everlasting or straw flower), the state fruit breeding farm, formerly owned by Charles G. Patten at Charles City, and the trucking section around St. Ansgar. On the old Patten farm are hundreds of interesting seedling plums, apples, and pears of Mr. Patten's breeding, and the original Patten Greening tree. Some of the seedlings are extremely promising.

Proposed Trip of Prof. Close in September.

As planned, this trip covers Michigan on the 13th to 16th, Illinois on the 18th to 20th, Indiana on the 21st to 23d, and Ohio on the 24th to 27th.

Field Trip of W. R. Beattie to
Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut.

The first ten days of August were spent by Mr. Beattie visiting the three States above named and in going over some of the horticultural extension work being conducted. In Rhode Island, where no horticultural specialist is employed, an attempt is being made through the Director and the county agents to put on some work with small fruits and vegetables. In the past the dairy work has been emphasized in Rhode Island but there is now a decided demand for fruit and vegetable work. One day of the trip was spent with County Agent, F. S. Madison of East Greenwich in visiting sections of the two counties under his jurisdiction where the problem of finding cash crops for the farmers is especially acute.

Three days were spent in Massachusetts, one day attending the annual field day at the Lexington Field Station, one day visiting demonstrators in company with Prof. Tompson, and one day visiting some of the fruit and truck men in the northern part of the State, especially around Fitchburg. It always gives us pleasure to pay return visits to growers who have built up a reputation for their product and who are conducting their business just a little better than the average. On Sunday, it was our pleasure to visit Mr. Albert Jenks, who owns the Middlesex Fruit Farm at West Acton. Mr. Jenks was formerly horticultural agent for Middlesex County. The farm on which Mr. Jenks is working was in a badly run down condition at the time he purchased it but he has brought it out in wonderful shape and has a fine crop of apples. Mr. Jenks has made a great success of red raspberries on a small scale and has demonstrated the wonderful possibilities of this crop in New England.

The 7th, 8th and 9th of August were spent in company with Mr. Albert E. Wilkinson, Vegetable Specialist of Connecticut, going over his demonstration work mainly in the Connecticut River valley. During the three days we visited about 20 demonstrators around Hartford, Weathersfield, New Haven and Bridgeport, traveling by auto. This was the first opportunity we have had to study the work being conducted by Mr. Wilkinson and we were especially interested in his methods. Once a year Mr. Wilkinson submits to the county agents a list of demonstrations which he considers should be put on in each county. The county agents arrange for the cooperators, the time of planting and harvesting and are expected to see that the proper local publicity is secured. Mr. Wilkinson endeavors to visit each cooperator either previous to the planting of the demonstration plots or at the time they are planted. He also aims to see the demonstration at least once during the growing period and again at harvest time. Mr. Wilkinson also holds the county agent accountable for the securing of records, especially those pertaining to the weights and yields of the crops. He does not, however, depend upon the county agents giving any subject matter information. Mr. Wilkinson does not stay out of a county in which the county agent is not in sympathy with the work but goes ahead and puts it on where he is certain it is needed and as a rule the county agents soon fall in line. Mr. Wilkinson has absolutely sold himself and his services to the vegetable growers of his State and his relation with his cooperators everywhere is most cordial. As an example the wife of one grower we visited during the early forenoon insisted that we come into the house and sample her fresh apple pies with a glass of ice cold milk on the side.

Irish potato scab control is a serious problem in Connecticut, especially on land that has been heavily manured and on which lime has been applied. Last year a demonstration in the use of sulphur for scab control was staged on the farm of Mr. L. M. Benham near Highwood. Applications of sulphur at the rate of 150 pounds, 300 pounds and 600 pounds to the acre were made in strips across a field that was badly infested with scab. The 150 pound treatment gave practically no results, the 300 pound treatment gave approximately 60% control while the 600 pound application gave almost 100% control. On the strength of this demonstration, Mr. Benham planted the field to potatoes again this year, applying 600 pounds of sulphur to the acre over the entire field. As a result, Mr. Benham has a yield of about 275 bushels to the acre of fine, marketable potatoes on land which, without the treatment, would not produce marketable potatoes. This practice is now accepted by Mr. Benham and Mr. Wilkinson will use his sworn statement in spreading the results of the demonstration over the State.

Vegetable Growers Convention.

The annual meeting of the Vegetable Growers Association of America was held at Indianapolis, Indiana, August 22 to 24 and was largely attended by college men and growers from the Central States. The meetings were full of interest and the members of the local and State vegetable growers associations did themselves proud in the way of making arrangements and providing entertainment. The exhibits furnished by the local people were especially fine and attracted wide attention.

Field Day at Massachusetts Market Garden Field Station.

Wednesday, August 2nd was the occasion of the fourth annual field day at the Lexington, Massachusetts Market Garden Field Station. Light rain during the morning hours undoubtedly kept a great many people away but an actual count showed 735 persons in attendance and at one time there were 224 autos parked on the grounds. The schedule of demonstrations included fertilizer mixing, Bordeaux mixing, spraying vs. dusting on asparagus and tomatoes, plowing under green manure, firing greenhouse boilers with oil as fuel, methods of conducting a roadside market, motor cultivating, tying vegetables by machine and by hand, etc. At the noon hour the crowd assembled on the lawn and listened to a very interesting and instructive discussion of the relative merits of spraying and dusting by Prof. of New York State. At 3:00 P. M., a meeting of the Massachusetts State Vegetable Growers Association was held. The entire day was filled with good things and it is significant that the crowd included many of the leading men in agricultural matters from three or four of the New England States, also that most of these men are in regular attendance at the annual field meetings. Prof. Tompson and his assistants deserve great credit, both for the work they are doing and for the success of the fourth annual field meeting at the Lexington station.

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Field Trip of Mr. F. L. Mulford - New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

On August 15 and 16, Mr. Mulford attended the annual summer meeting of the Home Demonstration Agents of New Hampshire at Durham. In New Hampshire it is planned to carry work in beautifying farmsteads into all the counties, beginning the first of the year with some element like shrub plantings about



the foundations of as many homes as may be practical.

On the way back to Washington, Mr. Mulford made a brief study of present methods of conducting landscape work in Massachusetts. Most of the work in this State is being done by the specialist directly on community projects instead of through the agents on farmsteads. Experience has shown that community projects do not immediately affect the lives of the present generation of farmers and that the farmstead demonstration is the one that brings results.

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Personal Paragraphs.

Mr. C. G. Vinson, formerly extension fruit specialist in Pennsylvania, is now connected with the Experiment Station of Wooster.

Prof. Paul Thayer has left the Experiment Station at Wooster, Ohio, to take up fruit extension work at State College, Pennsylvania.

Prof. T. J. Talbert has left the Division of Extension of the Kansas State Agricultural College to become head of the Horticultural Department of the University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri.

Prof. H. A. Jones of the Horticultural Department, University of Maryland, has accepted a position as Associate Professor of Olericulture at Davis, California, effective October 1st.

Prof. T. J. Rosa, Jr., of the University of Missouri, has accepted a position as Assistant Professor of Truck Crops with Prof. Jones at Davis, California, effective November 1st.

We have received an interesting report from Mr. J. P. Griffith, Horticulturist of the Porto Rico station. While Mr. Griffith's work is largely investigational, it has an important place as demonstrating what can be grown on the Island and how to get best results. Tests of avocados, bananas, coffee, mangoes, sweet potatoes, tomatoes and other vegetables, ornamentals and arboretum planting are among the leading lines of work underway.

There are a number of other changes in the personnel of the horticultural extension workers in the states, also a number of good men who are seeking to better their positions. In case any worker knows of a good opening, we will be glad to put those who are seeking either a position or a change in touch with those in charge.

Mr. A. E. Schilletter of South Carolina, has furnished us an interesting account of a fruit growers tour from the Piedmont counties of western South Carolina to the peach section of Georgia on July 27 and 28. The leading peach orchards and packing sheds were visited in order that the South Carolina growers could secure first-hand information relative to the proper methods of picking, grading, and packing the peach crop. One of the lessons impressed upon the South Carolinians was the fact that neither peaches or apples can be grown in the haphazard way in which cotton has been grown but that fruit trees must be handled like babies and fruit like eggs, if success is to be attained.

W. R. Beattie, Extension Horticulturist.
C. P. Close, Extension Pomologist.

